

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3653

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: U.S. VISIT OF MILAN MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILLORS

REF: MILAN 0981

1. REF JULY 26-28 CHICAGO VISIT BY MILAN'S MAYOR ANIASI AND SIX CITY COUNCILMEN, WISH CALL DEPT'S ATTENTION TO SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CHICAGO AND MILAN IN NOV 1962.

2. THESE SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN TWO CITIES UNDOUBTEDLY ACCOUNT FOR FACT THAT ANIASI PARTY CHOSE BEGIN FOURTEEN DAY TOUR OF AMERICAN CITIES IN CHICAGO.

3. WHEN DEPSTATE OFFICIAL CONTACTS MAYOR DALEY'S OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFO ON VISIT AND SOLICIT CITY'S ASSISTANCE, SUGGEST THAT PARTICULAR EFFORTS BE EXERTED TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE RED CARPET TREATMENT THERE.

4. FYI, CHICAGO HAS AT TIMES BEEN LESS THAN GRACIOUS IN ITS PROTOCOL DEALINGS WITH MILAN. AS ONE CASE IN POINT, MAYOR DALEY'S OFFICE IN SPRING 1972 FAILED RESPOND TO ANIASI'S PERSONAL LETTER INVITATION TO DALEY TO ATTEND FIRST ANNUAL MEETING IN MILAN OF MAYORS OF WORLD'S GREAT CITIES. CONSIDERABLE BACKSTAGE PRODDING BY DEPT REQUIRED OBTAIN EVEN ORAL NEGATIVE RESPONSE WHICH CONGEN THEN RELAYED

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TO MILAN CITY HALL.

5. IF ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION NEEDED, DEPT MIGHT MENTION TO MAYOR DALEY'S OFFICE THAT CLOSER CULTURAL TIES OFTEN LEAD ALSO TO CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES. (E.G. MANAGING DIRECTOR STATE OF ILLINOIS EUROPEAN OFFICE RECENTLY VISITED MILAN TO PLAN AN ILLINOIS WEEK FOR JUNE 1975 IN WHICH, OF COURSE, PREDOMINANCE OF CHICAGO'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS OBVIOUSLY REFLECTED.) WE WOULD CAUTION, HOWEVER, AGAINST TEMPTATION TO GIVE VISIT COMMERCIAL FLAVOR WHICH COULD ONLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. MILAN, LIKE CHICAGO, IS MAJOR MODERN INDUSTRIAL CITY SUFFERING SAME RANGE OF CRUSHING PROBLEMS AS OLDER US CITIES. ANIASI IS ONE OF MOST SERIOUS AND COMPETENT ADMINISTRATORS AT POLITICAL LEVEL IN ITALY WHO WOULD WELCOME UNDERSTANDING OF WAY IN WHICH CHICAGO DEALING WITH COMMON PROBLEMS.

6. IN SUM, MILAN SEEMS TAKE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP QUITE SERIOUSLY. SPECIAL POSITION ALWAYS RESERVED FOR CHICAGO WHEN MILAN VIEWING US SCENE. IN EARLY AUTUMN 1971 GEORG STOLTI BROUGHT CHICAGO SYMPHONY TO LASCALA FOR THREE PERFORMANCES. MILAN MUNICIPALITY PULLED ALL STOPS EXTEND WARMEST WELCOME TO ORCHESTRA AND VIP CHICAGODELEGATION ACCOMPANYING ORCHESTRA. UPCOMING JULY 26-28 VISIT ANIASI PARTY TO CHICAGO, IN FACT, CONSTITUTES FIRMEST SIGNIFICANT DIRECT CONTACT AT OFFICIAL LEVEL AFTER ESTABLISHMENT SISTER CITY TIES SOME TWELVE YEARS AGO. ESSENTIAL CHICAGO MANIFEST APPROPRIATE CORDIALITY AND INTEREST IF SISTER CITY CONCEPT WHICH WE PROMOTE HAS ANY TRUE MEANING. MOREOVER, SPIRIT OR TONE CREATED DURING ANIASI PARTY'S INITIAL EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN WILL, PER SE, CONDITION REMAINDER OF THEIR FORTNIGHT ITINERARY.

7. WISH EXPRESS WARM APPRECIATION TO DEPT FOR WILLINGNESS ACCEPT FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE ROLE REF ANIASI PARTY ON SUCH MINIMUM NOTICE.
FINA

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